

Message Text

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ORIGIN IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 H-02 AF-10 ARA-14 EA-12
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TO USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY
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FOR AMBASSADOR FROM IO - DALLEY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SHUM, OCON

SUBJECT: PROPOSAL FOR UN SEMINAR ON HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE
PROCESS OF DEVELOPMENT

1. COPY OF A PROPOSAL BY SANON, OF HUMAN RIGHTS DIVISION,
FOR A UN SEMINAR ON HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE PROCESS OF
DEVELOPMENT WAS FORWARDED BY CONGRESSMAN FRASER TO DEPT.
TEXT OF CONGRESSMAN FRASER'S LETTER IN PARA. 3 BELOW.

2. DEPT INTERESTED IN EXPLORING IDEA. PLEASE OBTAIN ASAP
DETAILS FROM SANON'S OFFICE CONCERNING OUTLINE OF TOPICS
TO BE INCLUDED, LIKELY PARTICIPANTS, MOST SUITABLE
TIMING AND SITE, ALSO FINANCING DETAILS AND WHETHER THIS
IS PART OF THE REGULAR SEMINAR PROGRAM OR A SPECIAL
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SEMINAR.

3. LETTER OF NOVEMBER 23, 1977 FROM CONG FRASER:

QTE. DEAR MR. SECRETARY:
I WOULD LIKE TO DISCUSS WITH YOU A PROPOSAL FOR A UNITED
NATIONS SEMINAR ON HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE PROCESS OF

DEVELOPMENT. LAST WEEK TWO STAFF MEMBERS OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO MEET WITH THE DEPUTY

DIRECTOR OF THE DIVISION OF HUMAN RIGHTS, PIERRE SANON. AT THIS MEETING, MR. SANON DESCRIBED THE FINANCIAL DIFFICULTIES WHICH THE ADVISORY SERVICES PROGRAM OF THE DIVISION HAS FACED, PARTICULARLY OVER THE LAST SEVERAL YEARS. THE ADVISORY SERVICES PROGRAM CONSISTS OF FELLOWSHIPS, SEMINARS AND TRAINING PROGRAMS. FOR THE 1978-79 FINANCIAL BIENNium, THE DIVISION HAS BEEN INFORMED THAT IT MIGHT ONLY BE ALLOCATED DOLLARS 75,000 PER YEAR. MR. SANON INDICATED THAT THIS WOULD HARDLY COVER TWENTY FELLOWSHIPS, THUS LEAVING NO FUNDS FOR SEMINARS OR TRAINING COURSES. HE ASKED WHETHER THE UNITED STATES MIGHT BE WILLING TO HOST A SEMINAR ON THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN HUMAN RIGHTS AND DEVELOPMENT. ENCLOSED IS A COPY OF AN INFORMAL MEMORANDUM PREPARED BY MR. SANON.

THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN DEVELOPMENT AND HUMAN RIGHTS HAS BEEN FREQUENTLY DISCUSSED IN UN FORUMS. IN 1977 THE COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS INITIATED A STUDY ON THE RIGHT TO DEVELOPMENT. THIS STUDY IS BEING PREPARED BY THE DIVISION OF HUMAN RIGHTS FOR SUBMISSION TO THE COMMISSION IN 1979. MANY DELEGATIONS AT THE UNITED NATIONS ARGUE THAT CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS MUST BE HELD IN ABEYANCE IF DEVELOPMENT IS TO OCCUR. AT THIS SESSION OF THE GENERAL UNCLASSIFIED

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ASSEMBLY, IRAN AND OTHER DELEGATIONS SPONSORED A DRAFT RESOLUTION (A/C.3/32/L.17) WHICH DEALS WITH THE RELATIONSHIP OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL AND CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS. THE RESOLUTION TENDS TO PLACE PRIORITY ON THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL RIGHTS AS OPPOSED TO CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS. THERE IS A GENERAL TENDENCY IN THE UNITED NATIONS TO ASSUME THAT ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL RIGHTS MUST FIRST BE ACHIEVED BEFORE REALIZATION OF CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS CAN BE OBTAINED. A SEMINAR COMPOSED OF PARTICIPANTS WHO HAVE EXPERTISE AND WHO WOULD PARTICIPATE IN THEIR PERSONAL CAPACITY COULD DO A GREAT DEAL TO PROVIDE A MORE BALANCED PERSPECTIVE ON THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN DEVELOPMENT AND HUMAN RIGHTS.

I HOPE THE DEPARTMENT WILL GIVE SERIOUS CONSIDERATION TO HOSTING THE ABOVE-MENTIONED SEMINAR. IN TERMS OF AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS, IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT SECTION 116 (E) OF THE 1977 DEVELOPMENT AND ASSISTANCE ACT PROVIDES THAT NOT LESS THAN DOLLARS 750,000 SHALL BE SPENT BY AID IN THE ADVANCEMENT OF CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS. IF NECESSARY, SOME OF THESE FUNDS MIGHT BE DRAWN UPON FOR THE U.S. HOSTING OF THE SEMINAR.

YOUR KIND ATTENTION TO THIS REQUEST WILL BE GREATLY
APPRECIATED. SINCERELY YOURS, DONALD M. FRASER, CHAIRMAN
SUBCOMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS. UNQUOTE.

4. IN MAKING REQUESTED APPROACH, MISSION SHOULD BEAR IN
MIND THAT DEPT WANTS TO BE SURE THAT SUCH A SEMINAR DOES
NOT BECOME FORUM FOR DENYING LEGITIMACY OF INDIVIDUAL
RIGHTS OR PLATFORM FOR EAST BLOC ATTEMPT TO REJECT
POLITICAL RIGHTS. CHRISTOPHER

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Disposition History: n/a
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